

# Annual Report

ON THE

## Sanitary Condition

OF THE

### *Fylde Rural District,*

FOR THE YEAR 1918.



CHARLES COURT, M.B.,

*Medical Officer of Health.*

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KIRKHAM :

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1919.



# ANNUAL REPORT

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FOR THE YEAR 1918.

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*To the Chairman and Members of the Rural  
District Council.*

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present for your consideration my 17th Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary Administration of the Fylde Rural District for the year ended 31st December, 1918.

The Local Government Board, in a Memorandum dated 16th January, 1919, suggested that the Annual Reports of Medical Officers of Health should be brief, giving the vital statistics for the year so that the records of the district may be continuous, with only a short account of any outbreaks of disease, or other prominent sanitary events of the year.

Under the system adopted two years ago, with a view to effecting economies as regards Medical Officers' Annual Reports, the Registrar-General has supplied to the district Medical Officers of Health, through the County Public Health Department, the figures relative to births and deaths of residents of the district during the year under report. The year to which these returns refer is the calendar year, and the number of births and deaths "registered" may differ slightly on this account from the local records for the 52 weeks.

AREA.—On the 1st April, 1918, a small portion of the township of Carleton was incorporated in the Borough of Blackpool. The area lost to the Rural district was 227 acres; population, Census 1911, 128; local rateable value, £1,652 5s. 0d.; number of inhabited houses, 31. This leaves the area of the Rural district at 38,541 statute acres.

POPULATION.—The populations supplied by the Registrar-General for the purposes of this Report are as under:—

For calculating the birth-rate	... 11,641
„ „ death-rate	.. 10,390

These populations have been adjusted to correspond with the births and deaths to be published in the Registrar-General's Annual Report, which will relate to the reduced area from the date of the change, and to the old area for the earlier part of the year.

The death-rate population excludes all non-civilian males, whether serving at home or abroad. The birth-rate (and marriage-rate) population, on the other hand, is intended to include all the elements of a population contributing to the birth and marriage rates; it consists, therefore, of the death-rate, or civilian population, plus all non-civilians enlisted from this country, whether serving at home or abroad.

In 1917 the populations used for the purposes of this Report were—Birth-rate 11,725, death-rate 10,518. The population of the Rural area at the Census 1911 was 11,578.

## SECTION I.

### VITAL STATISTICS.

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**BIRTHS AND BIRTH-RATE.**—According to the returns supplied by the Registrar-General, the total number of births actually belonging to the Rural area, and registered during the year 1918, was 169—males 94, females 75. Illegitimate births numbered 10—males 7, females 3. In the preceding twelve months 194 births were registered.

The birth-rate, calculated on the estimated population above referred to (11,641), equals a rate of 14·5 per 1,000, or 2·0 below the rate recorded for 1917. The average birth-rate of the Rural district for the ten years 1908-17 was 21·3, or 6·8 per 1,000 above the rate for the year under report.

The provisional birth-rate for England and Wales for 1918 is 17·7 per 1,000 of the population.

The distribution of the net births in the Rural area is shown below :—

Sub-District					Males		Females		Total
Fleetwood	...	...	...	...	17	...	11	...	28
Blackpool	...	...	...	...	21	...	23	...	44
Kirkham	...	...	...	...	56	...	41	...	97
Total					94	...	75	...	169

### MORTALITY.

**DEATHS AND DEATH-RATES.**—The total number of deaths of persons belonging to the Fylde Rural District in 1918 was 168, this total being arrived at after adding 12 inward transfer deaths of persons belonging to the district, and the exclusion of 75 deaths occurring in the district, mainly in the Fylde Union Workhouse, of persons not belonging to the Rural area.

The tabulated statement below, supplied by the Registrar-General, analyses the causes of death distinguishing males and females :—

CAUSES OF DEATH	Males	Females
All Causes (Civilians only) .....	89	79
Enteric Fever.....	..	2
Small-pox .....	..	..
Measles .....	..	..
Scarlet Fever.....	1	..
Whooping Cough .....	2	1
Diphtheria and Croup .....	..	..
Influenza .....	18	15
Erysipelas .....	1	..
Pulmonary Tuberculosis .....	3	3
Tuberculous Meningitis.....	1	..
Other Tuberculous Diseases .....	..	..
Cancer, Malignant Disease.....	2	4
Rheumatic Fever .....	..	..
Meningitis .....	1	..
Organic Heart Disease .....	5	10
Bronchitis .....	7	8
Pneumonia (all forms) .....	12	6
Other Respiratory Diseases .....	..	1
Diarrhoea, etc. (under 2 years).....	..	..
Appendicitis and Typhlitis .....	..	..
Cirrhosis of Liver.....	..	..
Alcoholism .....	..	..
Nephritis and Bright's Disease ....	3	..
Puerperal Fever .....	..	..
Parturition, apart from Puerperal Fever .....	..	1
Congenital Debility, etc. ....	5	1
Violence, apart from Suicide .....	4	2
Suicide .....	..	..
Other Defined Diseases .....	21	24
Causes ill-defined or unknown.....	3	1
Special Causes (included above) :—		
Cerebro-spinal Fever.....	..	..
Poliomyelitis .....	..	..
Deaths of infants under 1 year of age	10	4
Illegitimate.....	1	..
Total Births .....	94	75
Legitimate .....	87	72
Illegitimate .....	7	3

Population for Birth-rate .. .. 11,641.  
 „ Death-rate .. .. 10,390.

The death-rate, calculated on the estimated civilian population previously referred to, viz., 10,390, corresponded to 16·1 per 1,000, as compared with a rate of 12·5 last year, 15·6 in 1916, 13·6 in 1915, and an average of 12·6 for the 10 years 1908-17. The rate for the year under report is, therefore, 3·6 per 1,000 above the rate for last year, and 3·5 in excess of the 10 years' average.

The death-rate for the whole of England and Wales in 1918 was 17·6 per 1,000.

DEATHS IN TOWNSHIPS.—The table below shows the allocation of the corrected number of deaths to the various townships in the Rural area :—

Sub-District	Township	No. of Deaths
FLEETWOOD	Carleton .. .. .	16
	Singleton .. .. .	6
	Elswick .. .. .	1
	Little Eccleston-with-Larbreck .. .. .	0
		— 23
BLACKPOOL	Marston .. .. .	31
	Hardhorn, Staining and Newton .. .. .	9
		— 40
KIRKHAM ..	Freckleton .. .. .	28
	Medlar-with-Wesham .. .. .	24
	Bryning-with-Kellamergh .. .. .	5
	Clifton-with-Salwick .. .. .	4
	Greenhalgh-with-Thistleton .. .. .	2
	Newton-with-Scales .. .. .	2
	Ribby-with-Wrea .. .. .	5
	Treales, Roseacre, Wharles .. .. .	7
	Warton .. .. .	14
	Weeton-with-Preese .. .. .	9
	Westby-with-Plumpton .. .. .	5
		— 105
		— 168

DEATHS FROM PRINCIPAL EPIDEMIC DISEASES.—Six deaths were recorded under this head, viz. : Enteric Fever 2, Scarlet Fever 1, Whooping Cough 3. The death-rate was equal to 0·57 per 1,000, against a rate of 1·14 last year, 0·89 in 1916, and 1·0 for the 10 years 1908-17.



PHTHISIS (Pulmonary Tuberculosis).—To this cause 6 deaths were ascribed (males 3, females 3), corresponding to a rate of 0·57 per 1,000 ; last year this rate was 0·76. The mean of the last 10 years was 0·44.

BRONCHITIS AND PNEUMONIA contributed 33 deaths—Bronchitis 15, Pneumonia 18. In 1917 these deaths were 8 and 14 respectively.

INFLUENZA.—According to the Registrar-General the deaths from Influenza numbered 33 (males 18, females 15), whilst in 1917 this disease did not cause a single fatality.

Special Reports on the Influenza epidemic were sent to the Local Government Board and the County Medical Officer, and also read to the Members of the District Council.

INFANT MORTALITY.—There was a gratifying reduction in the number of deaths of infants under the age of one year, viz., 14 (males 10, females 4), as compared with 24 last year, 25 in 1916, and 26 in 1915.

The distribution in the sub-districts was as under :—

Kirkham ... ..	8
Fleetwood ... ..	2
Blackpool ... ..	4

The Infant Mortality, calculated per 1,000 registered births, was 82, against a rate of 123 last year, 103 in 1916, 105 in 1915, and an average of 92 for the 10 years 1908-17. The rate for 1918 was, therefore, 41 per 1,000 less than the rate for the preceding year, and 10 per 1,000 below the 10 years' average.

The Infant Mortality for the whole of England and Wales in 1918 was 97 per 1,000 births, and 94 per 1,000 for the smaller towns and rural areas.



Table IV. appended analyses the causes of infant deaths at stated age periods.

It will be noted that 5 of the deaths occurred within one week of birth.

The tabulated statement below compares the death-rates for 1918 with last year and the mean of the preceding 10 years :—

Per 1,000 of Population.												Rate of Deaths under 1 year to 1,000 Births
				Birth-rate		Death-rate		Epidemic Death-rate		Phthisis Death-rate		
1918	..	..	..	14.5	..	16.1	..	0.57	..	0.57	..	82
1917	..	..	..	16.5	..	12.5	..	1.14	..	0.76	..	123
Mean of 10 years (1908-17)				21.3	..	12.6	..	1.00	..	0.44	..	92

*Increase or Decrease  
in 1918 on :—*

Previous year	...	- 2.0	...	+ 3.6	...	- 0.57	...	- 0.19	...		- 41
Ten years' average	- 6.8	...	+ 3.5	...	- 0.43	...	+ 0.13	...		- 10	

## SECTION II.

### EPIDEMIC DISEASES.

There has been a considerable decrease in the number of these diseases in your district, as there have been 59 cases notified during 1918.

Last year 197 cases were notified. The majority of the notifiable diseases was that of Measles, of which 36 were notified, Scarlet Fever 8, Enteric 8, Diphtheria 3, Erysipelas 3 and Ophthalmic Neonatorum 1.

In addition, under the Public Health (Tuberculosis) Regulations, 17 cases were notified—12 pulmonary and 5 non-pulmonary.

The following table gives the months and the districts in which the epidemic diseases occurred, thus showing the prevalence of each disease at different times and districts:—

Month	Disease No. of cases	Districts	Cases Treated in Hospital	Cases Treated at Home	In Hosp.	Fatal At Home	
Jan. ..	Measles .....2	{ Wesham 1 .. 0 Clifton 1 .. 0	1	1	0	0	
	Scarlet Fever ..2	{ Weeton 1 .. 0 Treales 1 .. 1	1	0	1	0	
	Erysipelas ....2	.. Carleton 2 .. 0	2	0	0	0	
Feb. ..		{ Wesham 1 .. 0 Weeton 1 .. 0	1	1	0	0	
	Measles .....4	{ Bispham 1 .. 0 Low Cross 1 .. 0	1	1	0	0	
	Scarlet Fever 3 ..	{ Marton 2 .. 2 Ribby-w-Wrea 1. 0	0	1	0	0	
	Erysipelas 1 .....	Singleton 1 .. 0	1	0	0	0	
	Enteric 1 ....	Clifton 1 .. 1	0	0	0	0	
Mar. ..		{ Singleton 2 .. 0 Treales 1 .. 0	2	1	0	0	
	Measles .....5	{ Marton 1 .. 0 Hardhorn 1 .. 0	1	1	0	0	
	Diphtheria ....2	{ Gt. Plumpton 1.. 1 Ballam 1 .. 1	0	0	0	0	
	Ophthalmic Neonatorum 1..	{ Thistleton 1 .. 0	1	0	0	0	
April ..		{ Marton 13 .. 0 Mythop 1 .. 0	13	1	0	0	
	Measles .....18	{ Warton 2 .. 0 Carleton 1 .. 0 Staining 1 .. 0	2	1	0	0	
May ..		{ Marton 2 .. 0 Hardhorn 1 .. 0	2	1	0	0	
	Measles .....4	{ Freckleton 1 .. 0	1	0	0	0	
	Enteric .....1..	Bryning 1 .. 1	0	0	0	0	
June ..	Measles .....2	{ Carleton 1 .. 0 Wesham 1 .. 0	1	1	0	0	
	Enteric .....2..	Freckleton 2 .. 2	0	0	0	0	
	Diphtheria ....1..	Roseacre 1 .. 1	0	0	0	0	
July ..	Scarlet Fever ..1..	Salwick 1 .. 1	0	0	0	0	
Aug. ..	—	—	0	0	0	0	
Sept. ..	Scarlet Fever ..2..	Elswick 2 .. 2	0	0	0	0	
Oct. ..	Measles .....1..	Elswick 1 .. 0	1	0	0	0	
Nov. ..	Enteric .....3	{ Freckleton 1 .. 1 Wesham 2 .. 2	0	2	0	0	
Dec.....	Enteric .....1..	Treales 1 .. 1	0	0	0	0	
		59	59	17	42	3	0

## MEASLES.

Cases 36. Deaths 0.

It will be seen from the foregoing table that Measles were prevalent from January to June, with one sporadic case in October.

Last year 152 cases were notified, with one fatality. In my opinion I consider the decrease of the number of notifications of Measles in 1918 is due to early notification, and consequently to the taking of greater precautions with regard to this disease.

## SCARLET FEVER.

Cases 8. Deaths 1.

Again there is a considerable reduction in the number of Scarlet Fever cases.

The cases of 1918 occurred in January, February, July and September. One case terminated fatally, and this, I think, was due to delay in determining the nature of the disease, and thus preventing an early removal to the Hospital.

## ENTERIC FEVER.

Cases 8. Deaths 2.

These cases of Enteric Fever occurred in February, May, June, November and December. In most of the cases the water supply and the general environment were not at all satisfactory.

## DIPHThERIA AND MEMBRANOUS CROUP.

Cases 3. Deaths 0.

These cases of Diphtheria occurred in March and June.

Last year there were 13 cases and 6 deaths. Of the cases notified in 1918, one was caused by bad drainage, but no special cause could be ascribed to the others.

## ERYSIPELAS.

Cases 3. Deaths 1.

There is one fatal case of this disease mentioned in the return of deaths by the Registrar-General. This fatality was a transferable death, and was really one of the sequelæ of other diseases.

## OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

Cases 1.

In March a case was notified as having occurred at Thistleton. It was attended by the medical man, who was called in after the birth of the child. No nurse was in attendance at the time of birth.

In regard to the matter of midwives, I might state that we have two qualified ones, but they are not sufficient for such a scattered district, and many confinements are still attended by unqualified women, who are very unsatisfactory, being illiterate, unable to notify births, or fill up maternity certificates. The greatest number of cases where the births are not notified are in Freckleton and Marton. I think that if the Maternity Benefit were not paid unless the certificate had been signed by medical men in attendance at the time, or by qualified nurses, this irregular practice would soon cease.

## TUBERCULAR DISEASES.

Cases 17. Deaths 7.

The Phthisis death-rate is slightly reduced this year. In 1917 it was 0·76, and this year 0·57 per 1,000 of population. Six deaths were pulmonary, and one was due to Meningitis.

Of the cases notified during the year, 12 were pulmonary and 5 non-pulmonary.

## INFLUENZA EPIDEMIC.

Influenza first became prevalent in the Carleton and Marton districts at the beginning of July, and continued throughout the Rural area until the middle of December.

There seems little doubt that the disease was introduced into the Carleton and Marton villages from Blackpool, where Influenza was prevalent at the time ; especially as the people of the two first-mentioned places are engaged in catering for the Blackpool market..

The cases were more numerous and also more severe in the Rural districts than the Kirkham Urban District. During the month of November the disease reached its height, judging from the number of fatalities and the number of cases.

The greatest number of fatalities occurred in Warton and Freckleton, there being 8 deaths in the former village and 14 in the latter, and 14 of these took place in November.

*Distribution of Precautionary Advice* to the public was effected by means of posters and pamphlets as recommended by the L.G.B. Posters were also sent to the different districts as regards the exclusion of children from places of entertainment during school closure.

All the schools in the Fylde Rural District were closed for varying periods, with the exception of one small school at Clifton-with-Salwick.

The epidemic was the cause of 40 deaths in the district, 7 of which, however, were transferable ones.

### SHRIMP POISONING.

The shrimp poisoning cases occurred in the villages of Warton and Freckleton, causing two fatalities.

There was an inquiry and special reports by the County Medical Officer of Health and myself to the Local Government Board.

### SCHOOLS.

There were 21 closures of schools in your district.

In *April*, Little Marton School was closed from April 9th for a period of four weeks owing to Measles.

All the other schools were closed owing to the Influenza epidemic on the following occasions :—

In *July*, Carleton and Marton Moss Schools for two weeks.

In *October*, Warton for four weeks, Weeton two weeks and three days, Singleton two weeks, Westby five weeks, Hardhorn-with-Newton three weeks, Carleton three weeks, Marton Moss six weeks and three days, and Freckleton five weeks.

In *November*, Esprick for two weeks, Little Marton five weeks, Wesham C.E. and Wesham R.C. Schools for four weeks, Treales three weeks, Newton-with-Scales four weeks, Wrea Green three weeks, and the Ballam School for two weeks.

#### FOOD AND DRUGS ACT.

Four samples of milk were examined and one cream of tartar, which were all found to be genuine.

For this information I am indebted to the courtesy of the Superintendent of the Constabulary.

#### CHEMICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL WORK.

There have been eleven examinations of swabs for the detection of Diphtheria, and three examinations of sputum for the detection of Tubercular disease.

I may mention that the chemical and bacteriological work is undertaken by Prof. Delépine, of Manchester.

#### HOUSING AND TOWN PLANNING ACT.

Particulars as to this matter will be found in another part of the Report.

This concludes my Report, and I must take this opportunity of thanking the Committee for supporting the efforts of the officials in the execution of their work.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

CHARLES COURT.



TABLE IV.—*INFANTILE MORTALITY, 1918.*

Nett Deaths from stated causes at various Ages under 1 Year.

CAUSES OF DEATH			Under 1 Week	1-2 Weeks	2-3 Weeks	3-4 Weeks	Total under 4 Weeks	4 Weeks and under 3 Months	3 Months and under 6 Months	6 Months and under 9 Months	9 Months and under 12 Months	Total Deaths under 1 Year
All Causes	Certified	..	4	1	..	..	5	2	3	2	1	13
	Uncertified	..	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1
{ Small-pox .. ..			..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
{ Chicken-pox .. ..			..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
{ Measles .. ..			..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
{ Scarlet Fever .. ..			..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
{ Whooping Cough .. ..			..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	2
{ Diphtheria and Croup .. ..			..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
{ Erysipelas .. ..			..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
{ Tuberculous Meningitis .. ..			..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
{ Abdominal Tuberculosis .. ..			..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
{ Other Tuberculous Diseases .. ..			..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
{ Meningitis ( <i>not Tuberculous</i> ) .. ..			..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
{ Convulsions .. ..			..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
{ Laryngitis .. ..			..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
{ Bronchitis .. ..			..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1
{ Pneumonia (all forms) .. ..			..	..	..	..	..	1	1	1	..	3
{ Diarrhoea .. ..			..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
{ Enteritis .. ..			..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
{ Gastritis .. ..			..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
{ Syphilis .. ..			..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
{ Rickets .. ..			..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
{ Suffocation, overlying .. ..			..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
{ Injury at Birth .. ..			..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
{ Atelectasis .. ..			..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
{ Congenital Malformations .. ..			1	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	2
{ Premature Birth .. ..			3	1	..	..	4	..	..	..	..	4
{ Atrophy, Debility & Marasmus .. ..			1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1
{ Other Causes .. ..			..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1
TOTALS .....			5	1	..	..	6	2	3	2	1	14

Nett Births registered during the calendar year { legitimate ..159 } 169  
 { illegitimate 10 }

Nett Deaths registered during the calendar year of { legitimate infants ..13 } 14  
 { illegitimate infants 1 }



TABLE I.—VITAL STATISTICS OF WHOLE DISTRICT during 1918 and previous years.

YEAR	Population estimated to middle of each year	BIRTHS			TOTAL DEATHS REGISTERED IN THE DISTRICT		TRANSFERABLE DEATHS		NETT DEATHS BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT			
		Un-corrected Number	Nett		Number	Rate	of Non-residents registered in the District	of Residents not registered in the District	Under One Year of Age		At all Ages	
			Number	Rate					Number	Rate per 1,000 Nett Births	Number	Rate
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1913	11,991	273	244	20.3	216	..	80	7	19	77	143	11.9
1914	12,240	269	250	20.4	198	..	78	6	20	80	126	10.2
1915	11,592	267	247	20.1	232	..	87	13	26	105	158	13.6
1916	Est. Civilian Population :— For Births 12,135 For Deaths 11,153	..	241	19.8	..	..	59	19	25	103	175	15.6
1917	For Births 11,725 For Deaths 10,518	..	194	16.5	..	..	77	10	24	123	132	12.5
1918	For Births 11,641 For Deaths 10,390	..	169 Males.. 94 Females 75	14.5	..	..	75	12	14	82	168 Males.. 89 Females 79	16.1

# FYLDE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.



*To the Chairman and Members of the Fylde  
Rural District Council.*

GENTLEMEN,

I have again the honour of presenting to you the Annual Report and Summary of Work done for the year ending 31st December, 1918, this being my 29th Annual Report.

## PUBLIC HEALTH ACT.

Total Number of Preliminary Notices ... ..	52
Legal Notices by order of Council ... ..	2
Number of letters written ... ..	117
,, defects remedied ... ..	87
New drains put in for waste and refuse water..	4
Existing drains opened, cleaned and rectified...	26
Offensive ash-pits improved ... ..	6
New water-closets put in in place of privies ...	4
Water-closets repaired ... ..	4
New privies provided ... ..	2
Defective privies improved ... ..	6
Waste water-pipes improved ... ..	1
Accumulations of manure removed ... ..	2
Nuisances caused by sewage on side of high- way abated ... ..	1
Nuisances arising from stagnant sewage abated ... ..	1
Nuisances arising from pig-keeping abated ...	2
Sewage tanks made ... ..	1
,, cleaned ... ..	3
Back-yards improved ... ..	1
Farm-yards drained ... ..	1
Ditches cleaned ... ..	20
Filthy dwellings lime-washed and cleaned ...	2
Existing drains tested with smoke test ... ..	3
New drains tested with smoke test ... ..	3

Estimated number of privy-closets in district... 1813

„ „ water-closets ... .. 649

„ „ waste water-closets ... 16

„ „ pail-closets ... .. 140

### SLAUGHTER-HOUSES.

Owing to the restrictions put on by the Food Control Authorities these have been very little used during the year. No cause for complaint.

### BAKEHOUSES.

All are as usual well kept.

### SEWERS.

No extensions have been made during the year. Owing to the exceptionally heavy rains during autumn several properties in Wesham have been flooded. Upon examination the sewer was found in good order, but had evidently been charged to its fullest capacity. Inquiry is being made and levels taken, and it is hoped to be able to put in a relief drain at an early date.

### INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Number of cases inquired into ... .. 61

Dwelling-houses disinfected after Measles ... 36

„ „ Scarlet Fever 8

„ „ Diphtheria ... 3

„ „ Typhoid ... 8

„ „ Phthisis ... 6

Number of articles of wearing apparel and bedding disinfected ... .. 323

Number of schools disinfected ... .. 15

### HOUSING AND TOWN PLANNING ACT, 1909.

Number of houses inspected ... .. 71

„ „ condemned ... .. Nil.

„ „ improved ... .. Nil.

Number of notices under Section 15 ... .. Nil.

„ houses improved under Section 15. Nil.

Of the 71 houses examined, 68 were under the annual value of £16 and 3 over.

## LEGAL PROCEEDINGS.

Legal proceedings were taken against one person for refusing to comply with a closing order.

## DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS.

Owing to the restricted labour on the farms the occupiers have not been able to keep their cowsheds up to the usual standard. Requisitions to lime-wash had to be made in a few instances. The milk at one farm was found to be tubercular, and the particular cow was located and expelled from the herd.

## PUBLIC HEALTH (WATER) ACT.

At one farm arrangements were made with the owner to build a new filter to improve the water supply, whilst at another a new ram was put down to force the water up to the farm house and buildings.

## NEW HOUSES.

Only one new house has been erected and passed for habitation, this being situate at Hardhorn, and is supplied by Fylde water. This house contains two living rooms and two bedrooms.

In conclusion, great difficulty exists in getting work done owing to the high price of materials and scarcity of labour; but it is to be hoped that the latter will improve now that the armistice is signed.

Many owners have, as usual, made improvements on same being suggested to them.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

JAS. JOLLY,

*Sanitary Inspector.*

